

USAR_J-2_Yoshio_Kobayashi

02:15:33:18 My name is Yoshio Kobayashi. Taisyo 11th August 26th.

02:16:09:12 How did you hear about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:16:18:17 I was 4th year undergraduate in school of education at Shinshu University, a teacher's college. It happened on December 8th, when I was a student.

02:17:21:11 How old were you when the attack on Pearl Harbor happened?

02:17:25:04 ...I think I was 19, I'm not sure.

02:17:47:17 You told us your birthday so it's ok if you don't know.

02:18:00:09 Please tell us what you wrote in your diary about the day of the Pearl Harbor attack.

02:18:09:04 I was 4th year student, and I've found a diary from then, so I'll read out some passages from the diary.

02:18:34:14 Showa 16th, December 8th. It says like this...

02:18:44:04 Today will be an anniversary. We got up on 6:30AM with alarm siren. (We were in a dorm) We got ready and went to school. We began with a morning assembly. The principal told us the news flash that Japan had entered a war with US and UK at west of pacific ocean. The principal also told us that Japan has completed nation's mission, so obey the rule and live with a sense of fulfillment. We knew this would happen, but we felt this keenly.

02:19:54:14 After the assembly, we had a military style national defense conference. On 3rd period, we had math, and Professor Yazawa said in composed manner. "Today is December 8th. Today will be an anniversary because it is the day Japan entered a war with US. Navy will either win with a complete victory or a total destruction, but it would be different for army because if we couldn't defeat opponent, we would not be able to come back again for 30 years. I have very high expectation for young people who carry the future of this country on their shoulders."

02:20:54:02 The 4th period was a special class. Professor Matsumoto explained us about Zazeb meditation. When I get back to dorm during lunch time, someone announced "declaration of war" and "Kimigayo"(the national anthem of Japan) was played. Everyone put down chopsticks and listen to "Kimigayo." After "Kimigayo" the document for declaration of war had been read.

02:21:53:15 When we were listening to the declaration, we were excited and we resolved that we would do our best to serve emperor's will. We cried in tears.

02:22:16:18 We all made a vow to defeat US and UK.

02:22:29:18 Then, we heard the document from Mr. Togo, a Prime Minister of Japan.

02:22:38:10 And the current war situation was announced. It announced that the surprise attack had been made to Malaysia. When we heard this, we cried with joy. After lunch, we talked about how we all hope to go to the battle line.

02:23:33:01 The 5th period was gymnastics, but instead, we spent time listening to radio news. We were serious and quiet while listening to the radio. I felt the strength of our country.

02:23:59:11 After the news, we heard a war song. We were touched by the war song especially after hearing the news. It was 1:05PM.

02:24:13:23 We got information about Battle of Singapore from the announcement of the Imperial Headquarters. We were surprised how fast the information pass through. After that we heard a news about the Battle of Hong Kong and Emperor's thoughts about independent country as powerful country.

02:24:44:22 However, we should not just rely on the military and wait for the announcement. We should make an effort to participate in this war and be part of a history.

02:25:08:11 For 6th and 7th period, Professor Morinaga made usual lecture for language class.

02:25:25:12 On 3:00PM after school, all of the students were listening to a news report. It was energetic as usual.

02:25:47:08 After a dinner, the stove didn't go on because of the blackout. We listened to a news on 7:00PM and had a inspection on lantern and went to bed on 9:30PM.

02:26:06:22 This is the diary entry on the date of the attack.

02:26:28:17 How did you feel when you heard about the news about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:26:45:02 I was grateful to hear that and I've been waiting for the news.

02:27:37:11 Did you have any anxiety about the war? Was it a taboo type of subject in conversation?

02:27:53:10 I was proud of Japan to be in such a great war so I didn't have any anxiety. I was willing to participate in the war instead of just sitting around in the school.

02:28:44:01 Did you have any friends or relatives who participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:29:07:19 I had a friend, Otsuka, from elementary school who participated in the attack on the Pearl Harbor. He was in navy of "Shonen kokuhei"(juvenile soldiers). Because we were a close friend, he told me about the attack when he came back from the mission.

02:30:07:15 How did you feel about his participation in the attack?
02:30:12:19 I was grateful to hear that.

02:30:28:13 In Japan how were you and your family affected by the economic pressure on your country, especially war with China and US embargo on oil and metal?

02:31:14:19 I wasn't affected from those incidents, but I knew there were some kind of effects because the newspaper and radio talked about those.

02:31:55:10 In the year of the Pearl Harbor attack, how was the school like? What did you do for fun during that time?

02:32:13:16 It was close to end of the school year, so we had many subjects to study, but the most important subject was a military exercise. The lieutenant colonel and two instructors in uniform would come to school and taught us.

02:33:18:05 The lieutenant colonel had same power as the principal, so if we ever be late to class, there was severe punishments. The military exercise was more important than the other subjects.

02:33:48:02 Most of the stuff we do for fun or for field day, were military related. We had an air defense drill or steeplechase as events. There were many military related things to do.

02:34:58:04 What was the name of the school you went to? and what department were you in?

02:35:05:05 The name of the school is Naganoken Nagano Shihan-gakkou.

02:35:18:02 Didn't you say you went to Shinshu University?

02:35:19:21 It is now named Shinshu-daigaku Kyouiku-gakubu(Shinshu University Education college). The precursor was Nagano Shihan-gakkou(Nagano Teacher's College).

02:35:34:10 So both of them are teacher's college?

02:35:36:04 Yes, both school were Teacher's college. Only the name had changed. Nagano Teacher's College became Shinshu University Education college.

02:35:49:08 Did you have the military exercise in that school?

02:35:51:14 Yes, we had it back then.

02:36:05:00 Did you play any American sports?

02:36:11:07 Not at all.

02:36:16:04 So you learned what you would normally learn in the teacher's college and also military exercise?

02:36:22:09 Yes

02:36:39:11 In your daily life did you interact with military? What kind of interaction was that?

02:36:51:18 The students did not have much chance to interact with military, but we had military instructors teach us about military exercise.

02:37:17:06 How did people show respects to Emperor?

02:37:31:11 We all think about Emperor as a god, and everything we do was for Emperor.

02:38:02:16 Did you pray for Emperor?

02:38:06:21 Yes, for example. I graduated the university on September, Showa 18th and became a teacher. I placed a framed photo of the Imperial Palace above the black board. We prayed at the beginning of the school and at end of the school. Everyone thought about Emperor as a god and prayed for him.

02:39:27:18 What did you know about deteriorated relationship between US and Japan prior to the war?

02:39:36:17 As a student, we didn't have chance to know all those informations. I just noticed that there was some kind of pressure from US embargo of oil and metals after the war between China and Japan. I didn't know anything beyond that.

02:41:08:13 Can you repeat the answer once more because we couldn't hear them well.

02:41:22:16 We didn't get much of the informations in school. I just noticed that there was some kind of pressure from US embargo of oil and metals. I didn't know anything beyond that.

02:42:38:06 Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan was at war with China and created tension with America, did you have any opinion about it?

02:43:01:16 From news and what we talked with friends, Japan had a concept and tried to establish the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere including China and Malaysia. We were eager to make the concept established from our heart.

02:44:11:02 Did you have any friends or relatives living in Hawaii or US prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:44:21:12 No

02:44:39:01 What was your opinion of America or Americans before the attack?

02:44:51:14 I didn't study about them and I wasn't so interested about that.

02:45:29:09 How did you feel about US bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Did you have any anger?

02:45:40:19 I don't have a diary of that time right now so I didn't have chance to take a look at it, but back then, I was shocked by the fact that the war ended. I wasn't so shocked about prior event, bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that much.

02:46:29:09 In fact, I was too busy with taking care of children at school. We had to produce agricultural products to support war. Also I had to visit each student out side of the class to teach. I was too busy with kids, I only noticed about bombing with news report.

02:47:34:07 How did you feel about Japanese surrender?

02:47:42:01 I was surprised and I couldn't believe it. It was during summer vacation so I was about to enter a air-raid shelter in the neighborhood. But the document of ending of the war was announced at noon of that day. At beginning, we heard a taped announcement by Emperor. We couldn't hear it clearly because of the noise, but we noticed some kind of serious matter had happened.

02:49:06:11 Was there any preparation in case US invade Japan directly after the Pearl Harbor attack? Were there air-raid drills, black outs, gas masks?

02:49:29:22 We were all told to build an air-raid shelter. Other than that, all children and adults were to fight with the opponent in a body.

02:50:18:17 Did you make the air-raid shelter right after the attack? or was it little later?

02:50:24:21 We made it little after the attack.

02:50:27:09 Was it around 1942?

02:50:34:10 I think it was Showa 17th or 18th.

02:50:46:12 Little by little?

02:50:47:05 We made it little by little.

02:51:01:04 Were there any other changes or preparation other than making air-raid shelter?

02:51:22:18 I didn't do this but I heard on the news that there were some people having fire extinction dril.

02:51:40:23 I can't think of anything else.

02:51:48:14 Around Showa 20th, I believe the situation was getting worse. Was there any changes in preparing for an attack such as air-

raid shelters?

02:52:06:09 I didn't notice anything like that.

02:52:36:17 Comparing to Showa 16th, right after the attack on Pearl Harbor, how hard was it in Showa 20th to get food, gas, and items that was necessary for everyday use?

02:53:09:10 After the attack, there were less food, and food ration system had been introduced. When I was a student, we ate rice porridge and could not eat regular meal. Luckily when I became a teacher, I went to farmland so I had less food problems. It was worse during last year as a student.

02:54:02:04 When was your last year at school?

02:54:05:12 It was Showa 18th.

02:54:07:09 Before Showa 18th, did you not have much of food problems?

02:54:10:22 There were less food in all of the school years, but it got worse during last year of school.

02:54:17:15 What year was last year of school?

02:54:18:12 Showa 18th.

02:54:35:17 What kind of changes in your daily life were there after the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:54:45:06 After the school years, I took a post in farmland so I didn't have much of food problems. Daily life was getting harder in several ways.

02:55:17:14 Can you give us some examples?

02:55:21:04 Clothing, food, and shelter... Especially there weren't enough clothing and food.

02:55:53:11 Did the military training at school increased as the war progressed?

02:56:13:22 There was military training before the attach on Pearl Harbor. In the military training there was class that teaches how to attack enemy's territory. Also many students were hoping to go to the battle line.

02:57:00:16 Did the military training got severe?

02:57:03:04 Yes it did.

02:57:05:19 Is that because the war is getting severe?

02:57:07:10 Yes, that is correct. If a student got late for military training class, he would get severe punishment. Not to be late, we

had to leave before the previous class ends. Also we didn't have time to store our textbooks so we had to carry them around during the training.

02:58:02:22 When you look back now, how do you feel about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

02:58:16:09 Back then, I thought Japan had done what was necessary thing to do, but now, I think all of the countries should not fight each other. A war still exist from religious problems and race problems. The war between Afghanistan is going on right now. Yet, we should all stop fighting and create a peaceful world.

02:59:56:12 How do you feel about WW2 now? Also, did the war experience affected your life now?

03:00:25:23 I experienced both a student and a teacher at the time of WW2. When I think about the WW2 now, I think Japan had made a big mistake, but back then, there were not many people criticized the event. People who criticized had been demolished. I think it is very important to talk to each other and make argument. Everyone need to listen, tolerate, and be generous to each other. Wars are still going on, but it had been stopped if people listen, tolerate and be generous to each other. I think this is very important thing.

03:02:37:22 Did you have any diary entry about Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

03:02:54:06 I don't have it now. In fact, I don't think I wrote diary during that time because I was too busy teaching.

03:03:37:18 You've answered all of the questions we had. Is there anything that you can share with us from your diary?

03:04:20:16 umm.....

03:04:22:15 If you think you've shared enough with us, that's ok.

03:04:47:18 I have entries about the resign of the Ministry, the Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, and a labor service. We had labor service when I was a student.

03:05:12:13 What is the date of the entry?

03:05:16:02 In diary?

03:05:19:02 The labor service was...

03:05:40:21 When did you start your diary and when is the last entry?

03:05:47:19 This is a diary from January 1st, Showa 16th to December 31st, Showa 16th.

03:06:48:10 Can I read one of the passage from December 31st?

03:07:07:15 December 31st.

03:07:10:10 On 6:00AM, I listened to news while in bed. Today is the last day of Showa 16th. I cleaned a household Shinto altar and a household Buddhist altar. No more snow from yesterday and it is a nice day to greet new year. In the evening, I went out to go buy some sake. It feels weird to buy sake with ticket. It is dinner for the new year's eve. I am 21 years old. We prayed to the Buddhist altar and came to dinner table. It is grateful to spend new year's eve with sound family. We had rationed sake, radish, black potato soup, and boiled burdock. They are all delicious feast. This would be a historical new year's eve because we are at war. We will not forget about this forever. There is a place where they will not have the temple bell toll on New Year's Eve, and instead they would have air alert. My brothers and sisters and I played "karuta"(Japanese playing cards) and I thought about my grandparents and parents getting older. I repeated song by Emperor for tomorrow. (to students in elementary school at Inada Shrine) "ikanaramu kotoni aitemo tayumanuwa wagasikisimano yamatodamasii, ikanaramu kotoni aitemo tayumanuwa wagasikisimano yamatodamasii" (do not yield your Japanese spirit even if you face a huge trouble.)

03:10:27:12 The diary have worth displaying in a museum.

03:10:34:16 This diary was used in the post war special TV program on Tokyo TV.